



Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development

OKLAHOMA WORKFORCE YOUTH COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Date: January 22, 2016

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City, 900 N. Portland Ave., Oklahoma City, OK

Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions

Co-chairs Chuck Mills and Cecilia Robinson-Woods welcomed the group and thanked everyone for attending.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Leroy Walker to approve the December 11, 2015 minutes. A second was made by Karen Davidson and the motion carried unanimously.

Council Update and Discussion

Chuck Mills gave the following update on the Governor's Council:

- The next meeting of the Governor's Council will be January 29, 2016.
- The local board certifications and designations will be on the agenda for approval.
- The East Central area will not be recommended to be certified due to not meeting all of the criteria. If they no longer meet the criteria and cease to be a workforce area, they have an option of joining another area.

KENs

Chuck, who is a KEN leader in the East Central area, said that he met with the Superintendent of the Shawnee Public Schools and Tim Burg, Executive Director of the Shawnee Economic Development Foundation. Chuck said that there is only one corporation working with one of the schools in the Shawnee district. There is a great need to get business involved with education and show students real world examples. He would like to follow the model of the Pryor School System headed by Superintendent Don Raleigh.

Gov. Fallin is really pushing Oklahoma Works – a comprehensive plan to get business engaged with education. It's hard because educators have to teach to the tests and other requirements.

Toni Pickle said that several months ago the Northwest Alliance invited Chuck and Don Raleigh to talk in Woodward. The Northwest Alliance wants to focus on workforce development. The board voted to create a Workforce Action Team. They also had Stephanie Cameron from Tulsa come and speak and have invited Susan Paddock to come next. Toni hopes to have a report on everything that she can share with the Youth Council.

Chuck said that a handout at a recent Career Pathways meeting talked about the need for businesses to become involved with schools, have conversations about career pathways which should be the driving force behind education, creating a product that leads to a career, whether

that is through college or technical education. These employer-driven pathways can lead to a successful career. It would require partnerships with educators, industry and business, school administrators, teachers, parents and students. If we don't all work towards this, then the governor's Oklahoma Works plan to align education and training with Oklahoma's workforce needs will not become a reality. This fits in with the Youth Council and its purpose. We all are a part of this comprehensive plan to assist the Governor's Council, the KENs and Oklahoma Works.

Jeff Downs said that we miss the mark on thinking skills. The community is looking for critical thinkers. We come up with lots of good ideas but getting them done is hard. With Chuck getting business leaders to talk with superintendents, this is a good opportunity.

Cecilia Robinson-Woods said that EngageOK would be a good venue to discuss KENs at the summer conference.

Purpose

Chuck said that he, Cecilia, and Jeff met with Jeane Burruss and discussed how to re-tool the Youth Council. They would like to propose a new purpose and mission statement. After sharing it with the Youth Council and a few tweaks, the final purpose statement is:

"Ensure that we equip the next workforce generation with the necessary skills for Oklahoma's future wealth generating jobs and every child should be exposed to the tools for success by 8th grade or age 14."

A motion was made by Jeff Pritchard to accept the purpose statement as tweaked. A second was made by Cecilia Robinson-Woods. The motion carried unanimously.

Mission

A draft has not been developed for a mission statement. This will need to be revisited.

Committee Structure

Chuck said that he talked with the Governor's Council chair, Steve Hendrickson, and asked him his thoughts on what the Youth Council should focus on. Steve said that the older youth, 16-24 age group, was mandated by federal law, but the younger group (early childhood) is a state issue. We need to focus on the younger group. Chuck said that if there are people on the Youth Council that wants to be involved with the older group, they can join that committee.

Chuck added that at the last meeting, two committees were formed – Access and Awareness. As a reminder of those who volunteered, the list is below:

<u>ACCESS COMMITTEE</u>	<u>AWARENESS COMMITTEE</u>
Chuck Mills	Chuck Mills
Cecilia Woods	Cecilia Woods
Steve Crank	Jeff Downs
Nannette Robinson	Debbie Andersen
Kerry Manning	Jackie Pearson
Scott Fry - either committee	Scott Fry - either committee
Greg Hall - either committee	Greg Hall - either committee
Mark Kinnison - either committee	Mark Kinnison - either committee
	Karen Davidson

Next Steps

Chuck would like for the committees to begin meeting on their own and get started moving forward. If you haven't volunteered for a committee, please sign up for one.

Rhonda Mize volunteered to be on either the Awareness or Access committee.

The Awareness piece needs to be developed first. Cecilia suggested that an ad hoc committee develop a mission statement. This can be done through group e-mails. Those who volunteered to assist are: Chuck, Cecilia, Norma Noble, Leroy Walker, Scott Fry, and Jeff Pritchard.

We want business and industry to connect with schools for career awareness. Jeff Downs said the summer conference for superintendents at the State Department of Education would be a good opportunity to speak to educators. They could each invite a business person to attend with them.

Jeff also suggested forming a professional learning community (PLC) of the Youth Council. This would help do away with some of the silos and help everyone know what's going on around the state. A PLC fosters collaborative learning among colleagues and helps participants to work together and achieve goals. It could be a page on Facebook – a landing spot where all of the conversations can take place. We would be the guide or facilitator for them and we'll be able to connect the resources. This would be a great deliverable.

Chuck suggested that the Youth Council have a joint meeting with the Career Pathways Committee to see where we can collaborate. Vikki Dearing added that the Career Pathways Committee was looking at having a Career Pathways conference.

Chuck added that the OKCareerGuide.org is a new web site for 6-12th grades and one is being developed one for K-5th grade. They now have 35,000 participants. It is a powerful program and a good tool to tell us what the kids are interested in – classes and careers. At some point, we may want Roberta Douglas, Career Tech, to come back and give another presentation.

New Business

None.

Old Business

None.

Next Meeting

The next Youth Council meeting will be on March 11, 2016.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:48 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Linda Emrich*